

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

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USAFE AND USAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: SAARLAND CDU GOVERNMENT REMAINS IN OFFICE

REF: FRANKFURT 3581

1. SUMMARY: SAARLAND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE (LANDTAG) ELECTED MAY 4 CONVENED JULY 14 WITHOUT AGREEMENT HAVING BEEN REACHED BETWEEN PARTIES ON ALTERNATIVE TO PREVIOUS ALL-CDU GOVERNMENT, WHICH THUS REMAINS IN OFFICE BY DEFAULT. END SUMMARY.

2. NEGOTIATING COMMISSIONS OF THREE PARTIES MET JULY 10 TO FORMALIZE AGREEMENTS REACHED ALONG THE WAY ON OPERATION OF LANDTAG. EACH PARTY, INCLUDING THREE-MEMBER FDP GORUP, WILL HAVE FACTION STATUS. THREE PARTIES WILL SUPPORT CDU NOMINEE FOR LANDTAG PRESIDENT, AND EACH PARTY WILL NAME A VICE PRESIDENT. COMMITTEES WILL BE EXPANDED TO PERMIT FDP MEMBER ON EACH. CDU REJECTED SPD/FDP DEMAND THAT APPOINTMENT OF

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LANDTAG STAFF DIRECTOR (WHICH BY LAW IS PRIVILEGE

OF LANDTAG PRESIDENT) REQUIRE APPROVAL OF ALL THREE PARTIES.

3. COMMENT: LANDTAG SHOULD THUS BE ABLE FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY, BUT INITIAL SESSION THIS WEEK COULD BECOME ACrimonious IF MINISTER-PRESIDENT ROEDER'S "POLITICAL REPORT" SHOULD PRESENT CDU AS VICTOR OF MAY 4 ELECTIONS OF IF SPD SHOULD CHALLENGE LEGITIMACY OF CDU GOVERNMENT (AS SPD CHAIRMAN LAEPPLER HAS THREATENED TO DO). ALTHOUGH CDU HAD GREASED SKIDS UNDER BOEDER, LACK OF PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY PREVENTS ANY CABINET CHANGES, AND HE REVELING IN INDISPENSABILITY. CDU CHAIRMAN (AND EDUCATION MINISTER) SCHERER, WHO HAD EXPECTED TO REPLACE ROEDER, IS FRUSTRATED MAN WHO HAS BEEN UNABLE FIND MEANINGFUL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN STALEMATE SITUATION. LAEPPLER IS UNDER SEVERE CRITICISM IN HIS OWN PARTY (AND FDP) FOR INDEPENDENT, UNPREDICTABLE AND INEXPLICABLE ACTIONS AND MAY TRY TO RECOVER VIA FURTHER RASH MOVES.

4. IN ADDITION TO ROEDER, THE LEADER WHO SEEMS TO HAVE DONE ALL THE RIGHT THINGS AND TO HAVE ENHANCED HIS STANDING CONSIDERABLY IS FDP CHAIRMAN KLUMPP. WHILE HOLDING OUT FIRMLY AGAINST A COALITION WITH THE CDU, HE HAS DEMONSTRATED FDP INDEPENDENCE BY REFUSING TO JOIN LAEPPLER IN QUESTIONING THE LEGITIMACY OF THE CDU CONTINUING IN OFFICE WITHOUT A MAJORITY AND HAS GIVEN CONTENT TO THE FDP'S SLOGAN OF "RETURNING GOOD SENSE TO THE LANDTAG" BY PLEDGING THE " NECESSARY MEASURE OF FDP TOLERATION OF THE CDU GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE ORDERLY ADMINISTRATION IN THE INTERESTS OF THE SAARLAND POPULATION". PRIVATELY, HE HAS ASSURED THE GOVERNMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET THIS AUTUMN SO THAT THE LAND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ECONOMY.

5. SOME CDU LEADERS HAVE JUMPED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE FDP'S "TOLERATION" WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AND COULD DEVELOP INTO A COALITION WITH THE CDU IN DUE COURSE, DEPENDING PARTLY ON OUTCOME OF 1976 BUNDESTAG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTIONS. KLUMPP'S ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 10 THAT HE WILL GIVE UP THE SAARBRUECKEN STADTVERBAND PRESIDENCY (A TEN-YEAR POST TO WHICH HE WAS ELECTED WITH SPD SUPPORT ONLY LAST YEAR AND WHICH PAYS 7000 MARKS PER MONTH, PLUS CAR AND CHAUFFEUR) TO BECOME AN ORDINARY MEMBER OF THE LANDTAG HAS STARTLED PEOPLE EVEN IN HIS OWN PARTY AND ADDED FUEL TO SPECULATION THAT HE EXPECTS TO BECOME MINISTER IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

6. THE LEGISLATIVE PERIOD IS GETTING UNDER WAY WITH
REASONABLE PROSPECTS THAT GOVERNMENT AND LANDTAG WILL
BE ABLE TO FUNCTION DESPITE 25-25 STANDOFF
BETWEEN DCU AND SPD/FDP. COMING MONTHS WILL SEE
EMPHASIS ON TACTICAL MANUEVERING AND PUBLIC POSTERING
WHILE CDU PLUMBS LIMITS OF FDP "TOLERATION" AND ALL
THREE PARTIES KEEP EYE OUT FOR EARLY ELECTIONS.
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